

Communication! Telecommunication!

Videoconferencing!

What do they all mean?

Where are we going?

As President of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Executive Director of KCDHH I am able to advocate for changes in the telecommunication systems at a national level. On February 28th and March 1st NAD co-hosted a demonstration of Video Relay Service (VRS) in the United States Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, DC. As I emceed that demonstration it brought me to thinking about the evolution of communication and how far we have come, and perhaps how far we have to go.

Communication is defined as the sharing of knowledge by a number of means, including; visual methods such as sign language, auditory methods such as voice and music, and physical methods such as touch. Human communication is the sharing of information for the purpose of understanding or making a social connection, more of a face-to-face means of communicating in most situations. Communication facilitates our natural desire to connect with one another, create relationships and maintain and encourage social bonds to express our physical, emotional and psychological needs. Without communication we as humans die.

Our lives have spanned the greatest evolution in communication, including telecommunication, which we define as the passing of signals over a distance for the purpose of communication. In earlier years it included



Bobbie Beth's

Tidbits...

the use of smoke signals, a form of visual communication apparent to anyone within visual range, and drums, an early form of long distance auditory communication. In modern times, this process involves the sending of electromagnetic waves by electronic transmitters.

Today, telecommunication is widespread and devices that assist the process; such as television, radio and telephone are common in most parts of the world. The telephone uses voice, speech and text to transmit and receive sound across distances. Networks, such a public telephone, radio, television and internet have further broadened the scope of telecommunication. With a television and a high-speed Internet connection, a deaf or hard of hearing user can

place a VRS call by signing to a sign language interpreter, who then contacts the hearing user via a standard telephone line and relays the conversation between the two parties.

Videoconferencing technology is rapidly becoming the technology of choice for our community. Communication has evolved considerably in our lifetime and we as a community have evolved with it learning to use telephones, TTY's, VCO's, CapTel, email, computers and now videoconferencing. The world has become a smaller place and who knows what it may hold for us next. Soon we may be able to teleport ourselves physically from one location to another instantly, bringing us full circle in our desire for face-to-face human communication.

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Representative

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Representative



Celebrate Earth Day, April 22

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment.

Kentuckians will join others across the world in celebrating Earth Day 2007 on Sunday, April 22. Spearheaded by the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, a number of state agencies, local governments, businesses and organizations have joined together to celebrate Earth Day in the Commonwealth. Some of these partners have organized environmental activities throughout the month of April while others are providing information and resources on protecting Kentucky's environment. The state government theme for Earth Day this year is energy.

This is the fourth year in a row for a month-long, organized campaign in celebration of Earth Day. Among activities planned are hikes, special events, college campus programs, environmental award presentations and demonstrations of new, environmentally friendly technology. Visit the state Earth Day Web site at www.earthday.ky.gov to learn more about Kentucky's Earth Day celebration.



EPA's Earth Day Web site offers you many tips and fun ways to protect the environment and your health every day. Here are some things you can do around your home to reduce the environmental impacts of your everyday activities. This page includes information on how to recycle, conserve resources, avoid toxins, and practice environmentally responsible landscaping. <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/home.htm>

Commission Staff

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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Anita Dowd, Information Program Coordinator
Rowena Holloway, Information Office Supervisor
Kevin Kreutzer, Network Analyst I
Virginia L. Moore, Executive Staff Advisor
Rachel Morgan, Executive Staff Interpreter
Rachel Payne, Executive Secretary
Sharon White, Document Processing Specialist III
Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant
Vacant, State Interpreter Administrator
Vacant, Interpreter Relations Specialist

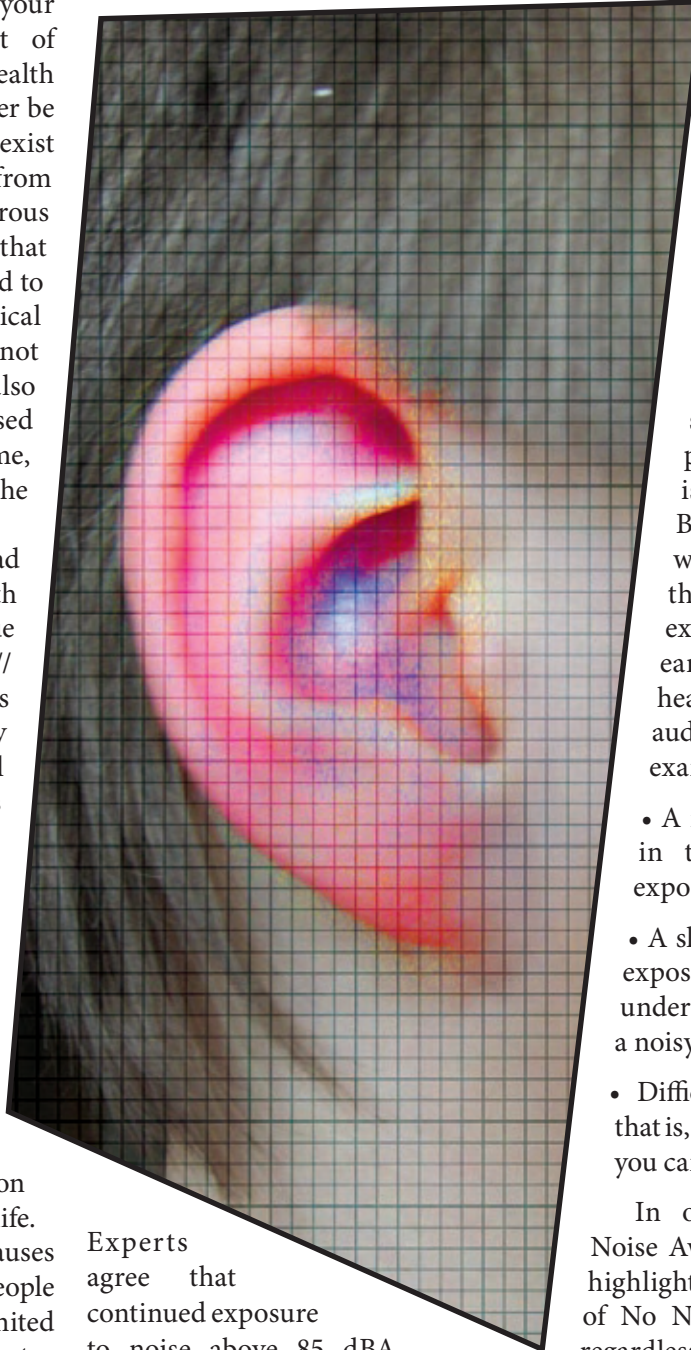
Comments from the Chair Trish Freeman, Ph.D.

April 25, 2007 celebrates the 12th Annual International Noise Awareness Day

Controlling noise is in your hands. The impact of noise on hearing, health and the quality of life can no longer be disputed. Volumes of literature exist to show the hazards to hearing from repeated exposure to noise. Numerous studies can be found to document that noise, like other stressors, is related to negative physical and psychological changes in humans. Noise is not just a concern for adults, but also for our children who are exposed to an onslaught of noise at home, in recreational activities and in the community.

To address the widespread impact of noise on hearing, health and the quality of life, the League for the Hard of Hearing <http://www.lhh.org/noise/> sponsors International Noise Awareness Day in conjunction with professional organizations, community activists and individuals around the world. The mission of the Noise Center of the League for the Hard of Hearing is to promote hearing conservation and noise awareness through education, advocacy and outreach. This year, International Awareness Day will be held on April 25th and is meant to educate the general public about the harmful effects of noise on hearing, health, and the quality of life.

Noise is one of the leading causes of hearing loss in the 28 million people with impaired hearing in the United States, and health statistics suggest a trend that the incidence of hearing loss is occurring at younger and younger ages. Noise-induced hearing loss, though preventable, is permanent.



Experts agree that continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA will eventually harm hearing. To avoid noise-induced hearing loss, turn down the volume whenever possible. Avoid or limit time spent in

noisy sports events, rock concerts and night clubs. Wear adequate hearing protection, such as foam ear plugs or ear muffs, when you must be in a noisy environment or when using loud equipment.

Pay attention to the warning signs. Noise-induced hearing loss is cumulative across your life span. Often, by the time a person realizes that there is hearing loss, it is too late. But there are certain early warning signs to suggest that there may be a problem. If you experience any of the following early warning signs, have your hearing tested by a licensed audiologist, or have your ears examined by an ear doctor.

- A ringing or buzzing (tinnitus) in the ears immediately after exposure to noise.
- A slight muffling of sounds after exposure making it difficult to understand people when you leave a noisy area.
- Difficulty understanding speech; that is, you can hear all the words, but you can't understand all of them.

In observance of International Noise Awareness Day on April 25th, highlight the day with 60 Seconds of No Noise from 2:15 - 2:16 p.m., regardless of your location. This one-minute period will emphasize the impact noise has on our hearing and health while giving you a reprieve from the everyday noises around you!

Through Deaf Eyes Forum

“History Through Deaf Eyes”, the first comprehensive film on Deaf history, is set to premiere March 21 at 9:00 pm ET on your local Public Broadcasting Station (PBS). This film is sure to enlighten and entertain as it explores nearly 200 years of Deaf life in America.

In honor of this exciting event, KCDHH will host a prescreening of the film “Through Deaf Eyes” and panel discussion following the film. The event will take place on March 17th from 6 to 9 p.m. in Todd Hall of The Kentucky Center, 501 West Main Street, Louisville. See the press release below for more details. Interpreters and Captioning will be provided.



“Do Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Grow Up?” *PBS program gives unique perspective of American life*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 20, 2007) - Imagine being born into a world where you don't have a role model, someone like you to emulate, look up to or strive to be like. For many children who are deaf or hard of hearing, that is their perspective of life.

Recently, Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, executive director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), gave a presentation on “What it is like to be deaf in today's society” at a public school in western Kentucky. After completing her

presentation, a young girl about 9 years old approached Dr. Scoggins, who has been deaf since birth, and asked, “Are you really deaf?” Dr. Scoggins said “yes.” The little girl responded, “But you can't be deaf, you're an adult and there are no deaf adults. I've never seen a deaf adult, there is no such thing as a grown up deaf person.”

“This little girl's perception was that she would never grow up because she had never met a deaf adult or seen another deaf individual as a role model. She and hundreds of other

school children across Kentucky who are deaf or hard of hearing need to feel confident that they can participate and succeed in society,” said Dr. Scoggins.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 9 p.m. ET the Public Broadcast Station (PBS) will air a documentary exploring nearly 200 years of deaf life in America. The two-hour film “Through Deaf Eyes” presents American history, family life, education, work and community from the perspective of deaf and hard of hearing citizens. “Through Deaf Eyes” shows the rich

Deaf Eyes Forum

Right: scenes from "Through Deaf Eyes," airing on PBS March 21. From top to bottom: Services at Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf; Image from the short film "Vital Signs," by Wayne Betts, Jr., one of six films by deaf filmmakers commissioned for "Through Deaf Eyes;" Sally Taylor, Rochester, New York, interviewed for "Through Deaf Eyes;" Drama class at the Maryland School for the Deaf. A prescreening of the film and forum will be held on March 17 in Todd Hall of the Kentucky Center in Louisville.

culture and history within the deaf community and promotes discussion on how deaf and hard of hearing individuals can lead independent lives. The film traces the evolution of deaf education from the founding of the first school for the deaf in 1817 to the 1864 charter of Gallaudet University, the only place that deaf or hard of hearing people could earn a college degree in a signing environment, until the late 20th century when the "mainstreaming" movement became popular.

KCDHH, in partnership with Kentucky Educational Television (KET), will host a panel discussion on Saturday, March 17, 2007, from 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. at the Kentucky Center in Louisville, to open dialogue between individuals in the deaf and hard of hearing community and those who have a vested interest in interacting with the community, such as parents, vendors and service partners. During this event, participants will see excerpts from the film and have an opportunity to ask questions of panel members, including professionals, educators and community leaders.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a deaf or hard of hearing child or family member, or have an interest in working with the community, please join us in Todd Hall at the Kentucky Center, 501 W. Main St., Louisville, on March 17 at 6 p.m.

If you would like to know more about this event contact KCDHH at:

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing**
632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-372-2907 v/t
502-573-2604 v/t
502-573-3594 fax
www.kcdhh.ky.gov



Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 17th** – “Through Deaf Eyes” Discussion Forum- The Kentucky Center, Louisville
- 21st** – “Through Deaf Eyes” PBS Premiere (check local listings for time)
- 21st** – “Natural Selection” – Actors Theatre of Louisville
- 24th** – Deaf Author, Stevie Platt – Book Signing, NKY
- 28th** – “Six Years” – Actors Theatre of Louisville
- 29th** – April 1st – Deaf People of Color Conference – Indianapolis, IN
- 30th** – Educational Considerations for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Princeton, KY

APRIL

- 21st** – TOWN HALL MEETING - Meet your Commissioners! Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins will present on “Ways to be Deaf” during the Town Hall meeting and those in attendance can meet the Commissioners of KCDHH and ask questions. Light refreshments will be served. Come join us in Bowling Green at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 955 Fairview Avenue, Suite 100.
- 22nd** - Celebrate Earth Day April 22nd
- 28th** – DeafNation Expo – Columbus, OH

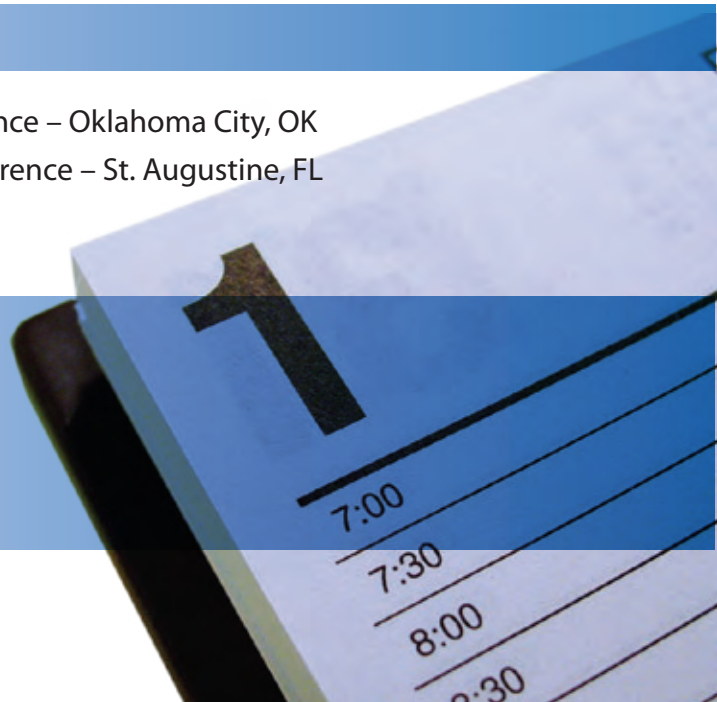
MAY

- 1st** – “Italian American Reconciliation” – Actors Theatre of Louisville
- 2nd** – “Crowns” – Actors Theatre of Louisville
- 5th-6th** – Family Learning Vacation – Bagdad, KY
- 23rd-25th** – ADARA National Conference – St. Louis, MO.

JUNE

- 21st-24th** – Hearing Loss Association of America Nat’l Conference – Oklahoma City, OK
- 28th-July 2nd** – American Society of Deaf Children Nat’l Conference – St. Augustine, FL

For more information on these and other events, please visit the KCDHH Web Bulletin Board at <http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/home/bulletin.html>





Volunteers Needed *

HANDS ALIVE

**A Learning Fair for ALL Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in Western Kentucky
Pre-School through High School**

March 29, 2007

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Brescia University Gym

717 Frederica Street Owensboro, KY

*Volunteers are needed to do a variety of jobs, including running carnival games, helping serve food, and check-in students. *Please wear a green shirt to the event!*

If you are interested in volunteering for part or all of the day, please contact Sarah Buschbach at (270) 852-7250 or sbuschbach@dcps.org

SEEKING A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL

TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION BOARD

The current KCDHH Service Provider term will expire on June 20, 2007. Applicants may be deaf, hard of hearing, or hearing. The Service Provider serves a three year term which will begin July 1, 2007 and expire June 30, 2010.

KCDHH is looking for creative individuals who will be involved in an exciting phase of change within state government.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the KCD-HH for an application.

Please submit applications on or before May 15, 2007 to:

Patricia Freeman, Ph.D., Chair
632 Versailles Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-2604 (V/T)

KCDHH

632 Versailles Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet

Through DEAF EYES

Airing on public television

Wednesday,

March 21, 2007

9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

(check your local PBS schedule)

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